

Setting up National Centres for disabled

1308. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Union Government to set up National Centres for blinds, deaf, partially deaf and model school for mentally retarded children in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor, as Uttar Pradesh being the most populated State in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No proposal is under consideration to set up National Centres for the blinds deaf, partially deaf, and model school for mentally retarded children in Uttar Pradesh. However, it has been decided to shift the Model Special Education Centre (MSEC), formerly known as Model School for Mentally Deficient Children (MSMDC) from Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi to New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA), Uttar Pradesh.

A Composite Regional Centre (CRC) has already been set up at Lucknow which provides educational, vocational training and rehabilitation services to the disabled persons.

Census of OBCs

1309. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to carry out a census of OBCs in the country;

(b) if so, what are the motives of Government to have cast-based census specially for OBCs;

(c) whether census for other castes is also being proposed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations have been requested to determine the number of OBCs and those amongst them living below the poverty line.